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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9735

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
() Release (X) Excise () Deny

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E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, AR
SUBJECT: OVER VIEW OF TERRORIST SITUATION IN ARGENTINA

FROM RSO BECKETT

SUMMARY: THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF KEEPING SECURITY ELEMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT INFORMED AS TO LOCAL CONDITIONS WHICH MAY AFFECT THE PENDING VISIT OF THE SECRETARY. THIS REPORT WILL COVER SHORT SUMMARYS OF SPECIFIC TERRORIST ACTIONS BETWEEN 1 JANUARY AND 28 JANUARY, 1975; A CONDENSED ASSESSMENT ANALYSIS OF THE TERRORIST POSTURE WITHIN ARGENTINA AND A COMPOSITE OF WEAPONS AND THE TECHNIQUE OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT CURRENTLY BEING USED BY TERRORIST ELEMENTS.

1. FOLLOWING IS A CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING OF VIOLENT INCIDENTS ACCREDITED TO TERRORISM IN ARGENTINA FROM 1 JANUARY THROUGH 28 JANUARY, 1975. THE INFORMATION FURNISHED CANNOT NECESSARILY BE CONSIDERED ALL INCLUSIVE SINCE THE INCIDENTS CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT ARE THOSE WHICH HAVE KNOWN TO BE REPORTED. THE SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION COMES FROM THE LOCAL NEWS MEDIA, REPORTS TO THE RSO'S OFFICE FROM THE FEDERAL POLICE GOA (FPA) AND THE LEGAL ATTACHE'S OFFICE.

JANUARY 2, 1975

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IN MENDOZA BOMBS WERE PLACED AT THE HOMES OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S SECRETARY GENERAL, A LEADER OF THE PERONIST UNIVERSITY YOUTH AND FORMER ADVISOR OF GOVERNOR ALBERTO MARTINEZ BOCA.

THE OFFICES OF THE EVENING NEWSPAPER LA TARDE WERE BOMBED.

JANUARY 3, 1975

FEDERAL POLICE OFFICER WAS STANDING ON A STREET CORNER WAITING FOR A BUS, THREE MEN AND A WOMAN APPROACHED HIM WITH WEAPONS IN HAND, ORDERED HIM TO LIE FACE DOWN ON THE PAVEMENT AND MACHINE GUNNED HIM. THEY REMOVED AND TOOK WITH THEM HIS WEAPON AND BADGE.

JANUARY 8, 1975

IN LA PLATA INDUSTRIALIST RUDOLF LEANDRO SAURNIER WAS KIDNAPPED WHEN HE STOPPED AT A TRAFFIC LIGHT. KIDNAPPING WAS EXECUTED BY ARMED MEN EMPLOYING THREE VEHICLES.

JANUARY 10, 1975

FIVE BODIES (UNIDENTIFIED) WERE FOUND IN A BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE. BODIES HAD BEEN BLOWN TO PIECES IN TWO SEPARATE DYNAMITINGS.

JANUARY 13, 1975

EDITORIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES OF THE NEWSPAPER EL ATLANTICO WERE DESTROYED BY A BOMB.

JANUARY 15, 1975

A BOMB ATTACK WAS CARRIED OUT AGAINST A FORD MOTOR COMPANY SHOWROOM I ADROGUE. THE NIGHT WATCHMAN WAS SLIGHTLY INJURED AND HOSPITALIZED AS A RESULT OF THE BOMBING.

JANUARY 17, 1975

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A GROUP OF TERRORISTS MACHINE GUNNED THE RESIDENCE OF THE MAYOR OF SAN MIGUEL DE TUCUMAN. AFTER COMPLETING THE MACHINE GUN ATTACK AGAINST THE MAYOR'S RESIDENCE, THE TERRORISTS TOSSED MOLOTOV BOMBS, CAUSING MINOR DAMAGES. THE MONTONERO GUERRILLA ORGANIZATION CLAIMED CREDIT FOR THIS ACTION. A BAPP OFFICER WAS AMBUSHED BY TERRORISTS IN SAN JUSTO, BAP.

AN FPA OFFICER WAS KILLED AND ANOTHER WOUNDED WHEN THEY ATTEMPTED TO QUESTION INDIVIDUALS DISTRIBUTING LEFTISTS PROPAGANDA NEAR THE FLORESTA RAILROAD STATION.

JANUARY 20, 1975

A BAND OF APPROXIMATELY 24 ARMED INDIVIDUALS DRESSED IN GREEN FATIGUE COMBAT UNIFORMS KIDNAPPED AND EXECUTED A FARM WORKER IN TUCUMAN. SUBSEQUENTLY, THIS SAME BAND SET FIRE TO A STATION OF THE TUCUMAN PROVINCIAL POLICE (TPP), WHICH WAS UNOCCUPIED.

TPP OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT THE PERPETRATORS OF THESE ACTS WERE MEMBERS OF THE ERP.

THE RESIDENCE OF A CONSTRUCTION WORKER OFFICIAL WAS MACHINEGUNNED IN CORDOBA.

IN SALTA THE RESIDENCE OF A FORMER OFFICIAL OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT WAS BOMBED.

THE ERP TOOK OVER A LOCAL TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATION IN CORDOBA AND BROADCAST PROPAGANDA FOR A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME UTILIZING A TAPED MESSAGE.

JANUARY 21, 1975

A GROUP OF TERRORISTS TOOK OVER AND BURNED THE SAN RAFAEL RAILROAD STATION IN TUCUMAN.

IN LA PLATA, THE RESIDENCE OF A BAPP OFFICER WAS FORCIBLY ENTERED AND THE CREDENTIAL AND BADGE OF THIS OFFICER WERE STOLEN.

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TWO UNOCCUPIED HOUSES WERE BOMBED BY TERRORISTS IN TUCUMAN. IN BAHIA BLANCA, BAP, A BOMB ATTACK WAS CARRIED OUT AGAINST A PRIVATE RESIDENCE.

IN CORRIENTES BOMB ATTACKS WERE CARRIED OUT AGAINST TWO BROTHERS, WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCIAL POLICE. THE MONTONEROS CLAIMED CREDIT FOR THESE BOMB ATTACKS.

JANUARY 23, 1975

A DOCTOR WAS KIDNAPPED AND SUBSEQUENTLY FOUND MURDERED IN TUCUMAN.

THE PUBLISHING FACILITY OF THE NEWSPAPER "LA VOZ DEL INTERIOR" WAS TAKEN OVER AND SUBSEQUENTLY DESTROYED BY RIGHT-WING TERRORISTS BELONGING TO THE AAA ORGANIZATION. AN FPA SOURCE REPORTED THAT THE INDIVIDUALS CARRYING OUT THIS ATTACK AGAINST "LA VOZ DEL INTERIOR" WERE THE SAME INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY CARRIED OUT A BOMB ATTACK AGAINST THE PRINTING FACILITY OF THE LEFTIST NEWSPAPER "EL MUNDO" IN THE FC DURING JANUARY 1974

JANUARY 24, 1975

IN BAHIA BLANCA, BAP, TERRORISTS BROKE INTO THE RESIDENCE OF A LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL AND ASSASSINATED HIM. THE RESIDENCE OF THE ASSASSINATED OFFICIAL HAD BEEN SUBJECTED TO A TERRORIST BOMBING DURING MARCH, 1974.

IN TUCUMAN THE BODIES OF TWO ERP MEMBERS WERE DISCOVERED. MEMBERS OF THE ERP BROKE INTO THE RESIDENCE OF A PRIVATE CITIZEN AND SERIOUSLY WOUNDED HIM DURING AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT.

IN CORDOBA THE BODY OF RAFAEL GUSTAVO GIGENA WAS DISCOVERED IN VILLA CARLOS PAZ, CORDOBA PROVINCE. THE VICTIM WAS THE BROTHER OF ENRIGUE GIGENA, WHO WAS KILLED ON NOVEMBER 20, 1974, DURING A SHOOTOUT WITH THE CORDOBA PROVINCIAL POLICE.

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JANUARY 25, 1975

AN FPA OFFICER WAS ROBBED OF HIS GUN AND BADGE IN RAFAEL CALZADA, BAP.

A BOMB ATTACK WAS CARRIED OUT AGAINST THE DIRECTOR OF "EL DIARIO", AN AFTERNOON NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN LA PLATA. IN BAHIA BLANCA, BAP, THE LAW OFFICE OF A LOCAL ATTORNEY WAS MACHINE GUNNED.

IN TUCUMAN THE RESIDENCE OF A SUGAR WORKERS UNION OFFICER WAS BOMBED.

A SANTA FE PROVINCIAL POLICE OFFICER WAS KIDNAPPED BY SEVERAL ARMED INDIVIDUALS. HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED AFTER BEING SUBJECTED TO A BEATING. HIS SERVICE REVOLVER AND POLICE CREDENTIALS WERE STOLEN.

JANUARY 26, 1975

THE RESIDENCE OF A CONSTRUCTION WORKER WAS BOMBED IN

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CORDOBA

JANUARY 27, 1975

A BOOKSTORE WAS BOMBED IN THE FC.

IN VIEDMA THE RESIDENCE OF A PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
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OFFICIAL WAS BOMBED.

FOUR PRESUMED TERRORISTS FORCIBLY ENTERED A GARAGE IN NUNEZ, BAP, AND STOLE TWO AUTOMOBILES. IN NEARBY MUNRO, BAP, SIX ARMED INDIVIDUALS PRESUMED TO BE TERRORISTS FORCIBLY ENTERED A GARAGE AND STOLE FOUR AUTOMOBILES. AN OFFICIAL OF THE BAPP ADVISED THAT THE THEFT OF AUTOMOBILES BY TERRORISTS USUALLY IS A WARNING SIGN THAT SOME MAJOR TERRORIST ACT WILL OCCUR WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

IN CORDOBA SIX POUNDS OF HIGH EXPLOSIVES, TOGETHER WITH BLASTING CAPS AND FUSES, WERE STOLEN FROM A CONSTRUCTION SITE BY PRESUMED TERRORISTS.

JANUARY 28, 1975

IN THE SUBURB OF B. A. ARMANDO CANZIANI, NATIONAL DIRECTOR FOR REGIONAL DELEGATIONS OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND HIS BODYGUARD WERE ASSASSINATED BY GUNMEN FROM A MOVING CAR.

11. ON JANUARY 28TH, 1975 A ROUTINE LIAISON MEETING WAS HELD BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY OFFICE AND SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE FPA. THE TOPIC OF DISCUSSION WAS WEAPONRY AND ITS EMPLOYMENT AS KNOWN TO BE IN USE BY TERRORIST ELEMENTS.

1. CONVENTIONAL HAND/SHOULDER WEAPONS: TERRORIST ELEMENTS (ERP AND MONTONEROS) HAVE IN THEIR POSSESSION AN EXTENSIVE QUANTITY OF HAND GUNS AND SHOULDER WEAPONS OF THE CONVENTIONAL TYPE. THESE WEAPONS ARE OF VARIOUS CALIBRES AND MAKES. ASSASSINATIONS TO DATE HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT USING HAND GUNS, SHOT GUNS, AND SUB MACHINE GUNS.

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2. CREW SERVED WEAPONS: THE TERRORISTS HAVE MORTARS, RECOILESS RIFLES, BAZOOKAS, HEAVY MACHINE GUNS, ROCKET LAUNCHERS, ANTI-TANK GUNS AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS.

A. THE ROCKET LAUNCHERS ARE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN USED ON AT LEAST FOUR OCCASIONS WITHIN THE METROPOLITAN AREA OF BUENOS AIRES I.E. ATTACK ON US EMBASSY

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RESIDENCE, SEPTEMBER 18, 1973, ATTACK ON THE CHILEAN EMBASSY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1974, SHERATON HOTEL, MARCH 1973, METAL WORKERS UNION IN 1973. A RACK OF FOUR ROCKETS MOUNTED ON A LAUNCHER (THE TYPE USED IN THESE ATTACKS), WAS MADE AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING. THW WARHEAD OF THE ROCKETS APPEARED TO BE APPROXIMATELY THREE TO FOUR INCHES IN DIAMETER AND APPROXIMATELY SEVEN INCHES LONG. ROCKETS WERE OF BOTH COMMERCIAL AND LOCAL MANUFACTURE. THE FPA REPRESENTATIVES ADVISED THAT THE ATTACK ON THE CHILEAN EMBASSY WAS NOT AS SUCCESSFUL AS IT COULD HAVE BEEN BECAUSE THE TERRORISTS FAILED TO ANCHOR THE LAUNCHING RACK AND THE FIRST DISCHARGE THREW THE RACK OUT OF ALIGNMENT DESTROYING ACCURACY. DETONATION WAS TRIGGERED BY A MECHANICAL TIMER.

B. NO INFORMATION WAS FURNISHED CONCERNING THE USE OF CREW SERVED MACHINE GUN, RECOILESS RIFLE OR ANTI-TANK AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS FOR ASSASSINATIONS.

C. FPA REPRESENTATIVES STATED THAT THE BAZOOKA HAD NOT BEEN USED FOR ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT TO DATE. THEY ADVISED THAT THE BAZOOKA WAS BEING MANUFACTURED BY LOCAL TERRORISTS. ACCORDING TO THE FPA, AMMUNITION FOR THE BAZOOKA (ROCKETS) ARE BEING SUPPLIED BY CUBA. THE DETONATOR OF THE ROCKET IS ALSO BEING SUPPLIED FROM CUBA BUT ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY. ATTEMPTS BY TERRORISTS TO SUCCESSFULLY MANUFACTURE A DETONATOR WHICH IS RELIABLE HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL TO DATE. IT WAS THE VOLUNTEERED OPINION OF THE FPA REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE TERRORISTS WERE SAVING THE USE OF THE BAZOOKA FOR A "SPECTACULAR". THEY ALSO STATED THAT THE FPA HAD TESTED ONE OF THE ROCKETS WHICH WAS CONFISCATED DURING THE COURSE OF A RAID AND FOUND THAT AT 100 METERS IT WOULD PENETRATE 50 MILIMETERS OF ARMOR

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PLATING.

D. BOMBS. THE FPA ADVISED THAT BOMBS HAD BEEN EMPLOYED IN THE LAST SIX TO EIGHT MONTHS IN THE ASSASSINATION OR ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF WELL KNOWN PERSONALITIES. I.E. GENERAL PRATT, SEPTEMBER 30, 1974, CHIEF, FPA, ALBERTO VILLAR, NOVEMBER 1, 1974, AND ATTEMPTED ASSASS-

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INATION OF CHIEF FPA LUIS MARGARIDA, DECEMBER 23, 1974. IN THE PRATT CASE THE BOMB WAS AFFIXED TO THE AUTOMOBILE WITH A MAGNETIC DEVICE AND FIRED BY A MECHANICAL TIMER. IN THE VILLAR INCIDENT THE BOMB WAS ATTACHED TO THE BOTTOM OF A MOTOR CRUSIER AND DETONATED BY RF SWITCH. THE ATTEMPT ON MARGARIDE WAS CARRIED OUT BY EMPLOYING A "CLAYMORE" DETONATED BY RF SWITCHING.

1. ACCORDING TO FPA THE BOMB PRESENTING THE GREATEST THREAT IS THE CLAYMORE. TERRORIST FACTIONS HAVE RECEIVED CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION AND EMPLOYMENT TECHNIQUES ON THESE WEAPONS FROM CUBA WHICH IN TURN OBTAINED ITS INFORMATION FROM THE VIETNAM CONFLICT.

NOTE BY OCT: CAUTION - THIS MESSAGE APPEARS TO CONTAIN SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION.

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THE GREATEST THREAT IS THE CLAYMORE. TERRORIST FACTIONS HAVE RECEIVED CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION AND EMPLOYMENT TECHNIQUES ON THESE WEAPONS FROM CUBA WHICH IN TURN OBTAINED ITS INFORMATION FROM THE VIET NAM CONFLICT.

2. THE CURRENT TREAD OF EMPLOYMENT IS THAT OF ATTACHING THE BOMB TO THE SIDE OF A VEHICLE, DRIVING THE VEHICLE INTO POSITION ALONG A KNOWN ROUTE TRAVELED BY A DIGNITARY AND DETONATING IT AS THE DIGNITARY PASSES. THEY WERE OF THE OPINION THAT THE BEST DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUE AGAINST THE USE OF THIS BOMB AND THE TYPE OF MO DESCRIBED IS THAT OF TRAVELING LARGE WELL USED STREETS; BECAUSE, IT WOULD NOT BE IN THE TERRORIST INTERESTS TO BRING ABOUT MASS KILLINGS OF BYSTANDERS.

3. THE TYPE OF EXPLOSIVES USED IN THE CLAYMORE VARIES. IN SOME CASES "PLASTIQUE" IS BEING EMPLOYED, ON THE OTHER HAND THE TERRORISTS ARE MAKING USE OF BLACK POWDER AND OTHER EXPLOSIVES (FERTILIZER BASED) WHICH CAN BE EASILY COMBINED AND MANUFACTURED IN THEIR OWN WORKSHOPS. IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE DESIRED EFFECTS OF EXPLOSION THE TERRORISTS VARY THE SIZE OF THE CLAYMORE.

4. THE EXPLOSIVE EXPERTS OF THE FPA ADVISED THT THEY WERE BEGINNING TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF BOMBING FROM "TUNNELING". TO DATE THEY HAD NO INFORMATION INDICATING SUCH AN OPERATION HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT IN BUENOS AIRES.

5. THE MAJOR CONCERNS OF THE FPA REPRESENTATIVES ARE THE TECHNIQUES OF DETECTION AND CONCEALMENT OF CLAYMORES IN BUILDINGS

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STRUCTURES, STREETS, ETC. FOR FUTURE ACTIVATION.

III. [REDACTED] CONDENSED ANALYSIS OF TERRORISM AS RELATED TO LEFT WING GROUPS IN ARGENTINA.

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1. AT PRESENT, THERE ARE TWO LEFT-WING TERRORISTS GROUPS IN ARGENTINA WHICH HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO ENGAGE IN MORE THAN SPORADIC ACTS OF VIOLENCE. THEY ARE THE PEOPLES REVOLUTIONARY ARMY

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(ERP, THE MILITARY ARM OF THE MARXIST LENINIST ORIENTED REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS PARTY --PRT,) AND THE MONTONEROS, A SELF PROSCRIBED ARMED FORCE COMPILED FROM WITHIN THE LEFT WING SECTOR OF THE PERONIST YOUTH MOVEMENT.

2. THE MONTONEROS, WHICH ABRUPTLY DECIDED TO GO UNDERGROUND IN SEPT 1974 AS A RESULT OF UNOFFICIAL GOVERNMENT AND RIGHT WING PERONIST REPRESSION, ARE INVOLVED IN EFFORTS TO CONSOLIDATE THEIR FORCES AND ORGANIZE THEMSELVES FOR A PROTRACTED STRUGGLE AGAINST THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT. THUS, WHILE THE MONTONEROS CONTINUE TO CARRY OUT ISOLATED TERRORIST ACTS--SUCH AS THE ASSASSINATION OF FORMER POLICE CHIEF ALBERTO VILLAR AND THE ABDUCTION OF THE BORN BROTHERS, THE PRIMARY FOCUS OF THEIR ACTIVISTS THUS FAR HAS BEEN ON INTERNAL ORGANIZATION AND POLITICAL ACTION TO GAIN ADHERENTS AMONG SUPPORTERS OF PERONISM. RECENT INFORMATION INDICATES THAT THE MONTONEROS ARE IN CONTACT WITH A SECTOR WITHIN THE ARGENTINE ARMY WHICH IS SYMPATHETIC TO THE FORMATION OF "PERUVIAN-STYLE" MILITARY GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO THIS INFORMATION THE MONTONEROS FEEL THEIR BEST HOPE FOR ATTAINING POLITICAL POWER IN THE FUTURE RESTS WITH THE FORMATION OF AN ALLIANCE OF PROGRESSIVE MILITARY, LABOR AND YOUTH SECTORS. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE ANNOUNCED INTENTION BY THE PERONIST YOUTH TO FORM A "DESCAMISADO" POLITICAL PARTY IS AN EFFORT TO FORGE SUCH AN ALLIANCE. THUS, THE MONTONEROS ARE BELIEVED TO BE RELUCTANT TO BECOME TOO CLOSELY INVOLVED WITH THE RP, ALTHOUGH CERTAINLY CONTACT IS MAINTAINED BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS, AND TO PARTICIPATE IN ACTIONS WHICH THE MONTONEROS JUDGE ARE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO THEIR LONG RANGE POLITICAL OBJECTIVES. WHILE FIRM INFORMATION ON THIS IS NOT AVAILABLE, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE MONTONEROS HAVE AN ARMED FORCE OF APPROXIMATELY 2,000 TRAINED COMBATANTS.

3. IN CONTRAST TO THE BASICALLY DEFENSIVE MILITARY POSTURE OF [REDACTED]

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THE MONTONEROS, AND DESPITE THE PRESENT PERIOD OF REDUCED TERRORIST ACTIVITY, THE ERP CONTINUE TO DECLARE PUBLICLY ITS INTENTION OF ENGAGING IN ASSASSINATIONS, KIDNAPPING AND OTHER ACTS OF VIOLENCE. THE TACTICAL PLANS OF THE ERP APPEAR TO BE BASED ON THE OBJECTIVES OF DIVIDING THE ARGENTINE BODY POLITICAL AND FOMENTING SUFFICIENT UNREST AND PUBLIC DISORDER TO BRING ABOUT A MILITARY COUP D'ETAT. IN THIS MANNER, AND ESPECIALLY THROUGH GROWING POLARIZATION OF POLITICAL FORCES, THE ERP HOPES TO BE

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ABLE TO ASSUME THE LEADERSHIP OF THE FORCES OF THE LEFT, INCLUDING THE MONTONEROS, FOR THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE EVENTUAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT.

4. THE CURRENT REDUCED TERRORIST ACTIVITY ON THE PART OF THE ERP IS BELIEVED TO BE RELATED TO TWO BASIC DEVELOPMENTS. FIRST, AND UNDOUBTEDLY MOST IMPORTANT IS THAT THE ERP IS BEING SUBJECTED TO STRONG REPRESSION BY THE ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES. THE ERP HAS SUFFERED SUBSTANTIAL LOSSES IN MEN AND MATERIAL DURING THE PAST THREE MONTHS, IS QUITE OBVIOUSLY ON THE DEFENSIVE AND IS BUSILY ENGAGED IN PROTECTIVE MEASURES TO PREVENT ADDITIONAL REVERSALS. SECONDLY, THE ERP IS PROBABLY REASSESSING ITS TACTICS IN THE AFTERMATH OF ITS RANDOM ASSASSINATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST ARGENTINE ARMY OFFICERS. THERE IS EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT ERP LEADERS GELATEDLY CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE CAMPAIGN, WHICH WAS INITIATED IN RETALIATION FOR THE DEATHS OF APPROXIMATELY 16 ERP COMBATANTS FOLLOWING THE ABORTIVE ERP ATTACK ON A MILITARY REGIMENT IN THE PROVINCE OF CATAMRACO IN AGU 1974 HAD BECOME A POLITICAL LIABILITY AND HAD RESULTED IN REDUCING THE IMAGE OF THE ERP AMONG THE GENERAL PUBLIC. ERP LEADERS REPORTEDLY DECIDED TO SELECT FUTURE TERRORIST TARGETS WITH MORE CARE AND TO PLACE MORE ATTENTION ON POLITICAL ACTION PROJECTS. RELATED TO THIS WAS THE ASSESSMENT BY THE ERP THAT THE ARGENTINE ECONOMY WOULD BEGIN TO SHOW SIGNS OF SIGNIFICANT DETERIORATION BY MID 1975. ACCORDINGLY, THE ERP HAS DECIDED TO UNDERGO PREPARATIONS FOR A NEW TERRORIST OFFENSIVE IN THE MARCH/APRIL 1975 TIMEFRAME. PURPORTEDLY, THIS OFFENSIVE IS TO BE DIRECTED PRIMARILY AGAINST THE ECONOMIC BASE OF THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING SABOTAGE AGAINST ESSENTIAL INDUSTRIES, AND DESIGNED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE EXPECTED ECONOMIC DETERIORATION.

5. SUCH PREPARATIONS ARE NOT EXPECTED TO RESULT IN A COMPLETE HIATUS OF ERP TERRORISM DURING THE PERIOD LEADING UP THE

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PROJECTED NEW OFFENSIVE. THE ERP WILL UNDOUBTEDLY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE DISCORD IN THE COUNTRY AND BRING ADDITIONAL PRESSURES ON THE GOVERNMENT STABILITY. FOR EXAMPLE RECENT REPORTING HAS INDICATED THE ERP WAS CONSIDERING SOME TERRORIST ACTION IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING OR DURING THE NOW POSTPONED MEETING FOR FOREIGN MINISTERS IN BUENOS AIRES, WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN MAR 1975. THE PURPOSE OF SUCH

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CONTEMPLATED ACTION WAS TO ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT THE MEETING AND EMBARRASS BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND SECRETARY KISSINGER. REPORT-EDLY, THE ERP REQUESTED THE ASSISTANCE OF THE MONTONEROS IN AN ATTEMPT TO ABDUCT A US BUSINESS EXECUTIVE OR A US OFFICIAL IN BUENOS AIRES DURING SECRETARY KISSINGERS PLANNED VIST TO THE COUNTRY. THE ERP WAS ALLEGEDLY NOT CONSIDERING ANY DIRECT ACTION AGAINST THE US SECRETARY OF STATE DURING HIS STAY IN BUENOS AIRES, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF THE EXPECTED PROTECTION HE WILL BE AFFORDED BY THE LOCAL SECURITY SERVICES. WHILE THE MONTONEROS REPORTEDLY REJECTED THE ERP REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE, AND WHILE THE FOMMINS MEETING HAS BEEN POSTPONED, THE POSSIBILITY THA THE ERP WILL ATTEMPT SOME TERRORIST ACTION ON ITS OWN TO EMBARRASS SECRETARY KISSINGER DURING HIS PROJECTED FEBRUARY VISIT CANNOT BE DISCOUNTED.

6. AS WITH THE MONTONEROS, FIRM INFORMATION ON THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THE ERP IS NOT AVAILABLE. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE ERP HAS SOME 400 TO 800 TRAINED COMBATANTS. AGAIN, AS WITH THE MLNTONEROS, THIS NUMBER ONLY REFERS TO ARMED AND TRAINED TERROIRISTS AND DOES NOT INCLUDE SUPPORT PERSONNEL AND SYMPATHIZERS.

IV. SUBSEQUENT SUMMARY REPORTS WILL BE SUBMITTED EVERY SEVEN TO TEN DAYS AS MATERIAL IS COLLECTED. SERIOUS INCIDENT REPORTS SHOULD SUCH OCCURE WILL BE PROVIDED ON AN IMMEIDATE BASIS.
HILL

NOTE BY OCT: CAUTION - THIS MESSAGE APPEARS TO CONTAIN SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION.

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